

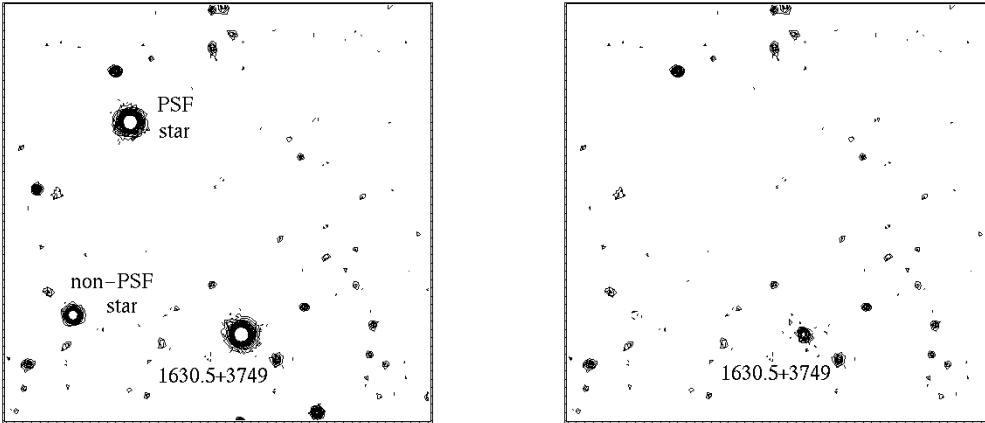
# THE HOST GALAXIES OF $z \approx 2$ RADIO-QUIET QSOS

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Based on an  $R$ -band imaging survey of high-redshift ( $z \approx 2$ ) QSOs with the 4.2m WHT, we report the detection of extensions to the nuclear PSFs of two radio-quiet and one radio-loud QSO. The extensions are most likely host galaxies, with luminosities of at least 3 – 7% of the QSO luminosity. The most likely values for the luminosities lie in the range 6 – 18% of the QSO luminosity ( $R \sim 19.8 - 20.9$  mag). Our observations show that, if the extensions we have detected are indeed galaxies, extraordinary massive and luminous galaxies are not only characteristic of radio-loud objects, but of QSOs as an entire class. For a detailed description of this work, see Aretxaga, Boyle & Terlevich (1995) MNRAS, 275, L27.



*Figure 1:* The left panel shows a  $50'' \times 50''$  field of one of the radio-quiet QSOs (1630.5+3749) for which we have found and extension to its nuclear PSF. The right panel shows the field after subtracting a 2D PSF profile to both QSO and stars. Note that the stars are subtracted while the QSO is left with significant residuals ( $> 3\sigma$ ).

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